

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-21 and 23-33 are pending with claims 1, 9, 23-32 being independent. By the present Amendment, claims 9 and 23-32 have been amended herein. The specification has also been amended.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-21 and 23-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of an interview of September 12, 2008, during which the Examiner withdrew the rejections of claims 1, 2 and 4-8 and 23 under 35 U. S.(c) § 112, first paragraph. As indicated in the Interview Summary, the Examiner deems claims 9, 10 and 12-22 and 24-33 to be allowable if amended to include same notations and equations used in sections (c) and (d) of claims 1 and 23. Accordingly, the independent claims 9 and 24-32 have been amended herein.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-21 and 23-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and would appreciate early notification of the same.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 659-9076 if further issues remain with allowance of this case.

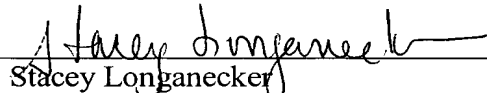
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Reply to final Office Action mailed May 27, 2008

Deposit Account Authorization

Although no additional fee is believed due by submission of this paper, authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **18-2220** (Order No. 47944).

Respectfully submitted,

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